

In the Claims

Without prejudice, please amend claims 6, 9, 10 and 11 as follows:

1. (Withdrawn) A plasticized polyvinylbutyral composition comprising (a) a PVB resin composition having a hydroxyl number of from about 15 to about 34 and comprising a mixture of meso and racemic stereoisomers wherein the ratio of meso to racemic stereoisomers (M/R) is in the range of from about 2.5 to about 5.0; (b) a surfactant; and (c) a plasticizer in an amount of from about 30 to about 50 parts per hundred (pph) based on the total weight of the PVB resin composition; and wherein the tensile creep of the plasticized polyvinylbutyral composition is less than or equal to 3.0.
2. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 1 wherein the surfactant is selected from: sodium dioctylsulfosuccinate, sodium methyl cocoyl taurate, sodium lauryl sulfate, or mixtures thereof.
3. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 2 wherein the PVB resin composition has a hydroxyl number of from about 17 to about 19 and wherein the ratio of meso to racemic stereoisomers (M/R) is in the range of from about 3.1 to about 3.5.
4. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 3 wherein the tensile creep of the plasticized polyvinylbutyral composition is less than or equal to 2.5.
5. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 4 wherein the tensile creep of the plasticized polyvinylbutyral composition is less than or equal to 1.5.

6. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a polyvinyl butyral resin composition having a mixture of meso and racemic stereoisomers, the process comprising the steps: (a) mixing components (i) through (v) to obtain an aqueous reaction mixture; and, (b) stirring the aqueous reaction mixture for a period of from about 15 minutes to about 180 minutes at a temperature in the range of from 80°C to about 100°C to obtain the polyvinyl butyral resin composition, wherein the components of the aqueous reaction mixture are (i) water, (ii) an acidic aqueous polyvinyl alcohol solution having a dry weight polyvinyl alcohol concentration of from about 8 wt% to about 20 wt%, based on the total weight of the solution, that is maintained at a temperature of at least about 80 °C, (iii) an acid compound or mixture of acid compounds present in an amount sufficient to give the aqueous reaction mixture a pH of from about 1.3 to about 2.5; (iv) a surfactant selected from the group consisting of ~~sodium dioctylsulfosuccinate~~, sodium methyl cocoyl taurate, ~~sodium lauryl sulfate~~, and mixtures thereof of sodium methyl cocoyl taurate with sodium dioctylsulfosuccinate or sodium lauryl sulfate; said surfactant present in an amount of from about 0.1 wt % to about 0.70 wt % based on the dry weight of the polyvinyl alcohol , and (v) butyraldehyde, wherein the ratio of (ii) to (v) is sufficient such that there is unreacted hydroxyl functionality in the polyvinyl butyral resin composition, and wherein the polyvinyl butyral resin composition has a hydroxyl number of from about 15 to about 34 and further wherein the meso to racemic ratio of the polyvinyl butyral resin composition is in the range of from about 2.5 to about 5.0.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 7 further comprising the steps of: (i) raising the pH of the mixture to a pH of at least 10 (ii) draining the liquid from the mixture and (iii) washing the polyvinyl butyral resin composition with neutral pH water.

9. (Currently amended) The process of Claim 8 wherein the surfactant consists essentially of sodium methyl cocoyl taurate ~~is the surfactant~~.

10. (Currently amended) The process of Claim 8 wherein the surfactant mixture comprises sodium lauryl sulfate ~~is the surfactant~~.

11. (Currently amended) The process of Claim 8 wherein the surfactant mixture comprises sodium dioctylsulfosuccinate ~~is the surfactant~~.

12. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 8 wherein the acid compound or mixture of acid compounds comprises phosphoric acid.

13. (Withdrawn) A plasticized PVB composition made by a process comprising the steps: (a) mixing components (i) through (v) to obtain an aqueous reaction mixture (RM); and, (b) stirring RM for a period of from about 15 minutes to about 180 minutes at a temperature in the range of from about 5°C to about 100°C to obtain the PVB resin composition, wherein the components of RM are (i) water, (ii) an acidic aqueous polyvinyl alcohol solution having a dry weight PVA concentration of from about 8 wt% to about 20 wt%, based on the total weight of the solution, that is maintained at a temperature of at least about 80 °C, (iii) an acid compound or mixture of acid compounds present in an amount sufficient to give RM a pH of from about 1.3 to about 2.5; (iv) a surfactant or a mixture of surfactants present in an amount of from about 0.1 wt % to about 0.70 wt % based on the dry weight of the PVA, and (v) butyraldehyde, wherein the ratio of (ii) to (v) is sufficient such that there is unreacted hydroxyl functionality in the PVB resin composition, and wherein the PVB resin composition has a hydroxyl number of from about 15 to about 34 and further wherein the meso to racemic ratio (M/R) of the PVB composition is in the range of from about 2.5 to about 5.0.

14. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 13 wherein sodium methyl cocoyl taurate is the surfactant.

15. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 13 wherein sodium laurel sulfate is the surfactant.

16. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 13 wherein sodium dioctylsulfosuccinate is the surfactant.

17. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 13 wherein the tensile creep is less than or equal to 2.5.

18. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 13 wherein the tensile creep is less than or equal to 1.5.